

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

April 24, 2012

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Teri Maia-Cicero, Chairperson; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Paul McFadden, and Lee Kissinger. Mark Rafanelli, Vice-Chairperson; Theresa Donovan, and Claudine Pande were absent. Others present: Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, Student Member [*substitute*] Sophia Neff

ORDER – Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Clerk Zuercher read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – In response to Member McFadden’s inquiry, Chair Cicero said an agenda item may be requested in writing through email to the Superintendent and the School Committee Chairperson. Usually, it requires that two members make a request but this committee has not done that.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – [Substitute] Student Representative Sophia Neff said that Student Member Russo apologizes for not attending tonight’s meeting. Sophia reported that the band and senior portfolio art students will be traveling to New York City tomorrow on a field trip. There is a boys’ tennis match tonight. On Friday seniors will present senior project products. On May 8 Student Council is sponsoring a Blood Drive. Presently, seniors and juniors are preparing for the AP exams that will take place on May 7.

Clerk Zuercher said that she wanted to publically thank AP history teacher Mrs. Wilmot who during spring break provided extra tutoring to students in preparation for the AP exams. Dr. Geismar recognized that Mr. Bartley did the same for AP chemistry students.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

In response to Clerk Zuercher’s inquiry regarding *Bills - Expenditure - Whitney Academy*, Mr. Ross and Dr. Geismar said they would seek clarification and report back to the committee on whether that is an annual expense.

Member McFadden made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Member Kissinger seconded the motion. Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

- A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of April 9, 2012; Regular Minutes of April 10, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of April 10, 2012**
- B. Personnel Items**
 - 1. Appointments**
 - 2. Leaves of Absence– (As Recommended by the Superintendent)**
 - a. RESCIND Lisa Fiorio’s approved request for a six-month Leave of Absence from her position as .5 FTE Purchasing Clerk, effective April 12, 2012, based upon *Article 10, Seniority, and Article 13, Leave of Absence* of the current Council-94 CBA**
 - 3. Resignations**
 - 4. Grievances**
 - 5. Non-Renewals**
 - 6. Recalls**
 - 7. Sabbaticals**
- C. Bills – In the amount of \$313,038.44**
- D. Home School Approval**
- End Consent Agenda**

Correspondence – (1) Sports 4 Kids Comedy Night Flyer; (2) April 2012 Wawaloam School Feinstein Newsletter; (3) April 17, 2012 Email from Paul McFadden to the School Committee withdrawing from the IT subcommittee

2012 – 2013 Budget – None

NEW BUSINESS – Consider Hiring a Consultant to Review District Technology Needs and Capacity – Dr. Geismar proposed that the committee consider hiring a consultant to get an objective review of the district’s technology needs and capacity. He presented a list of questions to consider should the committee decide to employ a consultant and said that Mr. Ross could prepare an RFP to bring back to the committee for input. In response to Clerk Zuercher’s inquiry, Dr. Geismar said there are not any outside resources available to fund this. Member Kissinger said that he believes an assessment is needed and that the School Committee needs to do it. Chair Cicero agreed and stressed the importance of ensuring that the infrastructure is where it needs to be. She said it is essential to have a very comprehensive plan moving forward. Hiring a consultant would cost roughly \$150 to \$175 per hour and a review would take two days to complete. Member McFadden said he did not want to be limited to the questions provided. Member Kissinger recommended that the technology subcommittee meet to discuss this and other aspects and to prepare a proposal to have a consultant in. The

committee reached consensus that the technology subcommittee would meet, Mr. Ross would gather samples of RFP's used by other school districts for the subcommittee to review; and Chair Cicero would provide Superintendent Geismar with meeting details so that the meeting could be posted appropriately.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Superintendent Search – None

Reports/Comments – None

Important Dates and Meetings – Tuesday, May 8, 2012-School Committee Meeting-*Wawaloam School Presentation @ Wawaloam School*; Thursday, May 17, 2012-Special School Committee Meeting 6 – 6:30 PM; Tuesday May 22, 2012-Special School Committee meeting-NESDEC @ 6:30 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Clerk Zuercher moved to go into Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a)(1) – Personnel; seconded by Member Kissinger; and voted as follows:

Teri Cicero	Yes
Valerie Zuercher	Yes
Paul McFadden	Yes
Lee Kissinger	Yes

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 6:35 p.m.

Clerk Zuercher moved to reconvene to Open Session. Member Kissinger seconded the motion. Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 6:40 p.m.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment – Clerk Zuercher moved to adjourn; Member Kissinger seconded the motion; and voted 4 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO
CLERK